

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-03 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01

CIAE-00 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07

L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03 USIA-06 SS-15 SP-02

AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-10 PA-01 PRS-01 /114 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SENV

SUBJECT: UNEP: BRUSSELS GROUP MEETING

OECD PARIS FOR HERTER

FOLLOWING ARE INFORMAL COMMENTS FOR YOUR USE IN BRUSSELS
GROUP MEETING. YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT THESE VIEWS ARE PRELI-

MINARY AT THIS STAGE AND SUBJECT TO FURTHER DEVELOPMENT
WITHIN USG.

1. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS OF UNEP: UNEP IS STILL IN
TOO EARLY STAGE OF ITS DEVELOPMENT TO WARRANT SIGNIFICANT
CHANGES FROM BASIC STRUCTURE ENVISAGED IN UNGA RES2997
(XXVII). IN FACT, WE INCLINED BELIEVE THAT BEST COURSE,
IF FEASIBLE, WOULD BE TO DELAY REVIEW CALLED FOR BY RES
2997, PENDING DEVELOPMENT FURTHER EXPERIENCE WITH UNEP AND
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HENCE BETTER BASIS ON WHICH TO CONSIDER FUNDAMENTAL
CHANGES. YOU MAY WISH TEST THIS THOUGHT ON BRUSSELS GROUP.
WITH REGARD TO SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FOR POSSIBLE ORGANIZA-
TIONAL CHANGES, YOU MIGHT MAKE FOLLOWING TENTATIVE POINTS:

(A) ORIGINAL CONCEPTION OF UNEP AS OVERALL UN COORDINATING BODY IN ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD STILL SOUND AND THIS CONCEPT SHOULD BE PRESERVED. IN PARTICULAR, UNEP SHOULD CONTINUE AVOID DIRECT OPERATING ROLE, EXCEPT FOR LIMITED AREAS IN

GEMS, TRAINING AND SIMILAR ACTIVITIES NOT CLEARLY ASSIGNABLE TO ANOTHER ORGANIZATION.

(B) IN VIEW UNEP ADOPTION OF BIENNIAL BUDGETING, RES 2997 PROBABLY SHOULD BE AMENDED TO REFLECT THIS DECISION, SINCE ANNUAL BUDGETS ARE FORESEEN IN PART 1.2(G) THAT RES. THIS MIGHT BE ASSOCIATED WITH FURTHER AMENDMENT TO RES 2997 CALLING FOR BIENNIAL MEETINGS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL. COMMITTEE II DISCUSSIONS AT GC/III INDICATED THAT ADOPTION BIENNIAL SESSIONS MIGHT RECEIVE SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT. PATTERN OF BIENNIAL SESSIONS MIGHT BE ASSOCIATED WITH MEETING OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS IN OFF YEARS SOLELY TO DISCUSS TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS OF PROGRAM ACTIVITIES.

(C) WE BELIEVE THERE MIGHT BE MERIT IN GIVING TO UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL ROLE IN PROCEDURE FOR APPOINTMENT OF UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. UNDER RES 2997, GOVERNING COUNCIL PLAYS NO ROLE, EVEN THOUGH DIRECTOR RESPONSIBLE TO GOVERNING COUNCIL FOR HIS ADMINISTRATION OF UNEP. WE CAN PROBABLY EXPECT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHERS IN CONNECTION WITH UNEP INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW FOR GREATER COMMITMENT FROM UN REGULAR BUDGET TO SUPPORT OF UNEP. IN ADDITION, THERE COULD WELL EMERGE FROM THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES PROPOSALS FOR EXTENDING THE COMMITMENT OF THE UNEP FUND IN SUPPORT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OBJECTIVES. SUGGEST YOU NOT RAISE THESE POINTS IN BRUSSELS GROUP, BUT SHOULD OTHERS DO SO, YOU SHOULD INDICATE US OPPOSITION. WE ARE NOT PREPARED AT THIS STAGE TO COMMENT ON RECOMMENDATION OF UN GROUP OF EXPERTS ON UN STRUCTURAL CHANGES, WHICH, INTER ALIA, CALLS FOR CONSOLIDATION UNEP FUND WITH OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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UN FUNDS. WE INTERESTED, HOWEVER, IN ANY COMMENTS OTHERS MAY HAVE ON THIS RECOMMENDATION.

2. SUCCESSION TO STRONG: YOU SHOULD REITERATE OUR HOPE THAT STRONG WILL ADHERE TO HIS INTENTION TO SERVE OUT REMAINDER HIS TERM. IN ADDITION, YOU MIGHT REITERATE OUR CONVICTION THAT THIS POSITION SHOULD REMAIN IN HIS HANDS, AND TO THIS END, MEMBERS OF BRUSSELS GROUP SHOULD ATTEMPT DEVELOP SLATE OF POSSIBLE SUCCESSORS TO PUT FORWARD AT APPROPRIATE TIME.

3. OTHER TOP POSTS IN UNEP: NAIROBI 4653, JUST

REFEIVED AND BEING REPEATED TO YOU, REPORTS SIGNIFICANT
RESHUFFLING OF UNEP TOP POSTS, INCLUDING TOLBA'S TAKING
OVER OF FROSCH'S PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES, WHICH WE
INCLINED BELIEVE IS GOOD MOVE. IN GENERAL, OTHER STAFF
CHANGES REPORTED BY NAIROBI IMPRESS US AS IMPROVEMENTS,
ALTHOUGH WE SHARE EMBASSY NAIROBI'S CONCERN INFIMAL PARA

RE FURTHER TILT TOWARD DEVELOPMENT BIAS.

4. BRUSSELS EXCHANGE OF VIEWS PRIOR INFORMAL GOVERNING
COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS: WE HAVE NO PROPOSALS TO MAKE ON
THIS SUBJECT, BEYOND OUR HOPE BRUSSELS GROUP CAN ARRANGE
FURTHER EXCHANGE OF VIEWS PRIOR TO INFORMAL GC CONSULTA-
TIONS LATE THIS YEAR.

5. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS: WE
WILL BE DEVELOPING OUR THOUGHTS ON THIS SUBJECT IN CONNEC-

TION WITH INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION CALLED BY PENALOSA TO MEET IN GENEVA AT END OF

SEPTEMBER. IN MEANTIME WE NOT PREPARED DISCUSS THIS
SUBJECT. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED, HOWEVER, IN ANY VIEWS
OTHERS MAY HAVE DEVELOPED AT THIS STAGE.

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